

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO VALUED COMMUNITY LIVES CONNECTING PEOPLE TO VALUED COMMUNITY LIVES

**BELONGING
MATTERS** INC

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1st 2016 – June 30th 2017

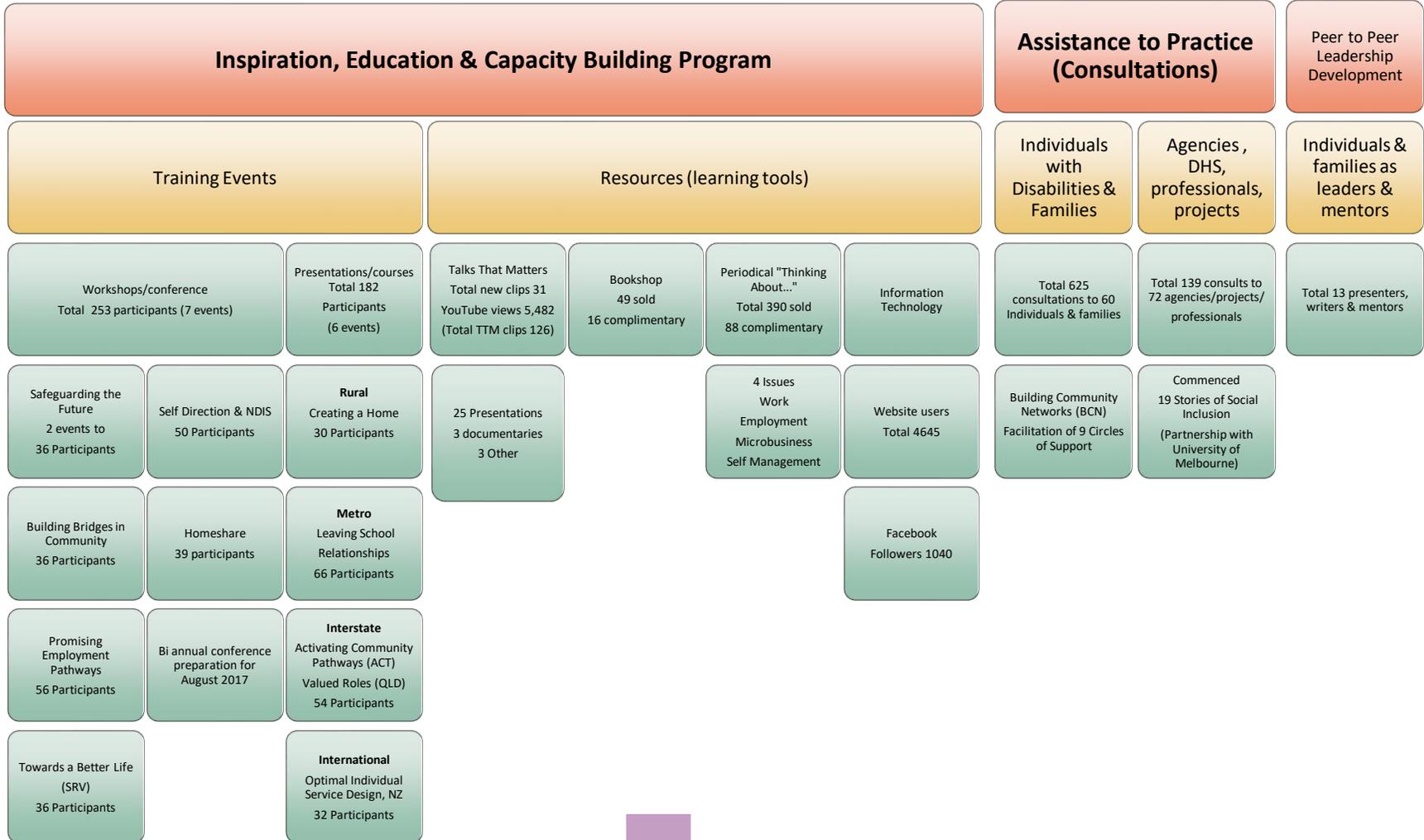


Enhancing the capacity of people with a disability and their supporters to create a community strengthen by the inclusion of all!

Belonging Matters Inc
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Belonging Matters

Overview of education & capacity enhancing investments delivered July 2016 - June 2017



Enabling typical pathways and opportunities for people with a disability that are personalised, purposeful and enhance valued contribution and social inclusion!

Belonging Matters' Overview

Vision: A Community Strengthened by the Inclusion of All

Mission: To inspire, educate and build capacity at the grass roots to assist people with disabilities to live valued lives in the community

Overview: Belonging Matters is a values driven, education, information and advisory service developed in 2003 by people with disabilities, families and others who were concerned about the systemic exclusion of people with a disability from their communities. Since then we have developed a range of capacity building resources using various mediums including film, publications, workshops, conferences and retreats. These resources are designed to shift attitudes and create opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue mainstream employment, education, authentic community inclusion and valued roles. We do not focus on a person's disability or diagnosis nor do we aim to sensationalise their disability or create pity. Instead we aim to portray people with disabilities as valued citizens with abilities, strengths and passions who have contributions to make to society. Thus, shifting mindsets positively and preventing the amplification of difference often portrayed through the media and other sources about people with disabilities.

Aims: To build the capacity and skills of people with disabilities, families and their supporters to encourage them to become better connected to their communities, pursue typical options and pathways that are available to other citizens, take up valued roles and pursue self-determination/direction. This will be achieved through a range of tools such as educational and training events and various informational resources and personalised consultation.

To give personalised, practical, follow up advice directly relevant to an individual's lifestyle, situation and culture to enable them to become better connected to their communities, pursue typical options and pathways that are available to other citizens, take up valued roles and pursue self-determination/direction.

To harness the strengths and skills of people with disabilities and families and build their confidence through information, reflection, supported decision making and practice.

To strengthening informal support networks and reduce the reliance on paid services through providing people with advice and information on community connection strategies, self-direction, Circles of Support, House Sharing with non-disabled peers; thinking creatively about support and the implications of paid supports.

To provide mechanisms for peer support and leadership through networking opportunities such as training events, referral to others who have pursued typical pathways and provide leadership opportunities for people with a disability and families/supporters to enable them to mentor and inspire other people.

Guiding principles: *Belonging Matters believes that people do better when they experience:*

- The same opportunities and rights as their fellow citizens
- Belonging and social inclusion in the community
- Valued social roles
- Lifestyles that enhance their individuality and uniqueness
- Self-determination and empowerment
- Lifestyle arrangements that focus on their strengths, abilities, interests and passions
- Freely given relationships from people who love and care about them (family and friendships)
- Respect, self-worth, dignity and self esteem
- Compassion
- Welcoming environments and people in them
- Responsive, flexible and creative supports and opportunities
- Support processes that are people friendly



President's Report

Adam D'Arcy

Another year has rolled by and one of the highlights for the year for me was my continued involvement with the amazing people who make up Belonging Matters. It is very humbling, and inspiring, for me to be involved with a group of people whose skills and dedication to the values and philosophy of Belonging Matters contribute to positive outcomes for people with disability.

The landscape of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is continually changing and with it the opportunities for service providers has had to change as well. This is especially true for Belonging Matters as there has still been no clear pathway for future funding. Whilst Belonging Matters does not solely rely on the funding that is currently being provided by DHHS, it does go a long way to ensure that we can continue the vital work that we do for individuals, with families and within the broader community. The prevailing opportunities under the NDIS, as it sits currently, is through the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grants process. This process does not roll out in Victoria until 2019, meaning that Belonging Matters will not know what funding will be accessible until those grants are allocated. To best position Belonging Matters for the future, the day to day structure of the organisation has been under constant review to ensure that we are able to continue our work within the available funding. During this process Leeanne Kolmus took a redundancy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leeanne for all of the hard work, and the commitment she displayed, to Belonging Matters and wish her all the best for her current and future endeavours.

Belonging Matters has continued with the integral work that it does with individuals and families who look to Belonging Matters for support, education and leadership on how to best effect positive change in their lives. With the hard work that people put in to achieving their goals, we have witnessed significant achievements for individuals, watching them take more control over their own lives and develop meaningful roles and relationships in the community. It is these outcomes that drive the organisation to keep working harder to ensure that the importance and value of capacity building is not lost in the narrative that is being driven by the NDIA.

Now, as much as at any time in the past, it is important that the voices of people with disability are heard, valued and respected. For this reason the resources that are provided by Belonging Matters, such as information sharing, workshops, Roles Based Planning, Talks That Matter, community linking, participation in workgroups, involvement with peak bodies and other like-minded organisations and our conferences, are distributed, accessed and utilised to ensure they reach as many people as possible.

I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who provide donations, sponsorship and funding for the work we do. The Department of Health and Human Services has continued with their support for the work that we do.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the Belonging Matters team who worked throughout the year: Events and Administration Officer, Jackie Holmes, Office Assistants, Emily Alexander and Madeline Rouget. Thank you also to Matthew Slater for his contribution to our social media efforts, Owen Hourigan for his invaluable work in regard to Talks That Matters and our website and Tracy Ireson for her work as our bookkeeper. I would also like to thank Teresa Micallef and Paul Constantin for their contribution. However, the biggest thank you goes to our CEO, Deb Rouget. Deb works tirelessly to ensure that the vision of the organisation is upheld. It is her passion and dedication to the outcomes for individuals as well as the service as a whole that makes Belonging Matters what it is. I am sure that I echo the sentiments of the board and all those who have benefited from her work when I say that I don't know what we would do without her and that our gratitude is immeasurable.



Treasurer's Report

Susan Dunne

I am pleased to advise members that the financial position of Belonging Matters at the 30th June 2017 remained stable and positive.

Funds received through government and other grants was higher than the previous year, but as it was a non-conference year, our overall income was lower. Sponsorship and donations were also lower than prior year, but we particularly acknowledge the invaluable ongoing support of Holmesglen and the Disability Services Commissioner. These major sponsors, along with other generous donors, enable our online video resource *Talks That Matter* to continue to be available as a free resource to people with a disability, families and others and also provide opportunities for additional capacity building activities. Total income for the year was just over \$300k. Our expenditure of approximately \$280k was predominantly in staff and consultant wages, website, conference and workshop costs, and operational costs.

Our Net Profit from Ordinary Activities was \$20,977. This profit will need to contribute to conference expenses of July/August 2017.

Total Assets at the end of the financial year were \$142,080, which was a 20% increase on last year's \$117,732. Our Total Liabilities were \$53,992, predominantly staff leave provisions. The Net Assets of Belonging Matters at year-end were \$88,088.

Belonging Matters will receive funding through the State Government of Victoria until June 2019. After this date Belonging Matters will need to seek funding via an annual grant application process through NDIS Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) stream. The individual consultation work provided by Belonging Matters will need to be funded via NDIS participant's packages. The evidence that capacity building will be funded through individual packages is yet to be proven. As a Board and staff team, we have strategically and financially reviewed our structure to remain financially vigilant and strategic as we transition to the NDIS.

I would like to thank the Board for their oversight of financial matters throughout the year and to recognise the dedication of Deb, Jackie and Tracy in managing our funds. Through their accurate bookkeeping and prudent reinvestment of income our resources have been used to the greatest benefit. And lastly, I would once again like to thank Graeme F Delany Pty Ltd (Certified Practising Accountants) for the audited financial statements and for his continued support of Belonging Matters.

If you would like to view the full financial statements for 2016/2017 financial year, please contact the Belonging Matters office.



CEO's Report

Deb Rouget

On 31st October 2016, we sadly lost one of Victoria's strongest parent advocates for the community inclusion movement, Maureen McLeish. Many of you may be aware of Maureen's work but you may not realise the breadth of that work which began over 30 years ago after the birth of her wonderful daughter Lauren. Over the past 16 years, Maureen's connection with Belonging Matters saw her travel throughout Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Canberra, Western Australia, South Australia and even Canada! She was always willing to share her clarity and passion for community, continually challenging the exclusion of people with disabilities. Maureen was also actively involved in the first Direct Payments Trial in the southern region of Melbourne, a member of various committees, including One by One and a valued member of the Belonging Matters' Board. We treasure Maureen's commitment and friendship. The world was a better place because she was in it!

Through our work at Belonging Matters, we aim to shift mindsets to enable people, particularly with an intellectual disability, to have access to valued roles and opportunities in the community. We believe that "Minds are like parachutes, they only function when open" (Thomas Devar). To invest in people's mindsets, Belonging Matters provides many resources including an education program, printed and on-line resources and a consultancy service, all aimed at fostering and enabling the social and economic contribution of people with a disability.

Our workshops continue to shift people's mindsets about what's possible. This year we reached 253 people with a disability, families and professionals through our workshops. These workshops included Safeguarding the Future; Building Bridges in Community; Promising Employment Pathways; Towards a Better Life; Self Direction and Homeshare. We also reached 182 participants through our various presentations and courses. These included Activating Community Pathways; Creating a Home; Leaving School and an opportunity to co-facilitate and present in Michael Kendrick's Optimal Individual Service Design Course in New Zealand!

Our on-line resources continue to grow and develop, stretching our impact well beyond our physical presence. This year our web site attracted 4645 users and we had 1040 on Facebook. [Talks That Matter \(TTM\)](#), our free online video lounge, continues to expand its collection of presentations, interviews and documentaries. This year, Talks That Matter received 5482 views! We also added 31 new clips bringing the total to 126. This included the production of three short documentaries: Inclusion - Amelia Makes her Move, Jackmail and The Music Student. Talks That Matter remains a free resource thanks to the sponsorship of Holmesglen, The Disability Services Commissioner and other donors.

Our periodical "Thinking About..." reached 478 people this year. Editions published this year included Thinking About Work, Thinking About the Employment, Thinking About Microbusiness and Thinking About Self-Management and the NDIS. The periodical enables people with a disability and families to share their stories and wisdom about social inclusion and empowerment. A huge thankyou to our authors who generously contribute their time, stories and wisdom.

Having information and inspiration is important but having someone to walk alongside is instrumental. Our consultation service provided 625 personalised consultations to 60 people with a disability and their families. This year, we continued to refocus on our consultation service to work more intensely with 9 people with a disability and their families through the Building Community Networks (BCN) project. The aim of this project is to gather a committed network or circle of unpaid people around a person with a disability to establish a vision and create a full, meaningful and inclusive life through harnessing valued roles. Many great things happened for people as a result. For example, starting a gift card business, volunteering at the Formula 1 at Albert Park, studying music at TAFE and performing in a school band, getting a job as a school crossing supervisor, becoming a guide at the MCG Stomp,

volunteering at a local footy club, participating in a community Zumba class, working for one of Melbourne's top 30 restaurants and much more!

We also provided 139 consultations to 72 agencies, professionals and researchers, stretching the thinking beyond programs and group homes.

We began an exciting project with the University of Melbourne called [19 Stories of Social Inclusion](#). The idea behind this project is to share 19 Stories of people with a disability living lives of connection, belonging and contribution. The stories will be available via a web site www.19Stories.org and will also contain learnings and a literature review.

We continue to invest in the leadership of people with disabilities and their families with 13 people sharing their story through our periodical and in presentations.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is one of the largest system reforms in Australia. The transfer of funding from our State Government to a Federal system is a huge undertaking bringing many opportunities but also much uncertainty for Belonging Matters. From June 2019, we will no longer be funded by the State Government. We will need to apply for an annual grant through NDIS, Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC). The total of these grant available Australia wide equate to only 1% of the entire NDIS budget and will not include our consultation service. This will need to be funded through NDIS Participant packages, thus meaning if participants do not have resources allocated in their package, Belonging Matters will not be able to provide support. We have spent considerable time this year reviewing our structure and the way we operate. We have redesigned this service to engage consultants based on demand.

This year we said farewell to Leeanne Kolmus. On behalf of people with a disability, families and the Belonging Matters team, I would like to sincerely thank Leeanne for her contribution. We wish her well in the future.

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to our team this year for their hard work and willingness to adapt as we head into a new era. Thank you to Jackie Holmes and Maddy Rouget for events management and administration, Owen Hourigan for film production, editing and publishing, Emily Alexander for office assistance, Matthew Slater for social media, Tracy Ireson for book keeping, Helen McFarlane for filming our documentaries and Leigh Harrison for IT. I would also like to welcome Teresa Micallef who is developing the BCN project and Paul Constantin for his contribution to BCN, policy work and assistance with events.

I would also like to thank the Board of Management, volunteers and others who support the work of Belonging Matters. The future maybe uncertain but more than ever we need to enhance the capacity and leadership of people with a disability and families as money alone will not necessarily bring equality and inclusion!

Financial Reports

Director's Report

Your Director's present this report on the entity for the period 1st of July 2016 to the 30th of June 2017

Directors

The name of each person who has been a Director during the year and to the date of this report are

Adam D'Arcy (President)

Lisa Harris (Vice President)

Toni Reeves (Secretary)

Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

Jon Adams (General Member)

Delia Fisher (General Member)

Tina Whitmore (General member)

Piers Gooding (General Member)

Peter Symonds (General Member)

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the entity during the year was in the provision of capacity building services, information and advice to assist people with a disability and their families. No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activities occurred in the period.

Operating Results

The profit of the entity was \$ \$20,977 for the period.

Auditor's independence

The Auditor's declaration of independence can be found below.

Signed in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Directors.



Adam D'Arcy (President)

12.10.17



Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

12.10.17

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income		
Trading profit	9,856	9,277
Grants received	223,997	201,001
Contributions received - members	1,945	-
Conference & presentations	50,919	87,087
Donations received	708	4,916
Sponsorships & licensing fees	12,091	19,392
Interest received	614	847
Other income	702	836
Total income	300,832	323,356
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	2,526	3,367
Audit fees	2,627	2,530
Bad debts	-	205
Bank fees and charges	143	154
Eventbrite fees	1,723	4,184
Paypal Fees	581	955
Bookkeeping fees	4,600	6,000
Client Support Services	2,115	-
Computer & website costs	8,616	5,793
Conference and seminar costs	23,363	56,662
Consultants fees	31,655	26,001
Delivery	-	22
Depreciation-office equipment & computer	8,328	3,722
Fees & charges	266	598
Insurance	1,305	1,346
Interest - Australia	-	1,211
Lease payments	-	765
Light & power	2,525	2,515
Meeting expenses	2,052	427
Office administrative costs	288	-
Postage & courier fees	970	1,058
Printing & stationery	6,660	6,024

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Provision for annual leave	(660)	(19,897)
Provision for long service leave	1,605	1,030
Rates & land taxes	1,635	1,521
Rent on land & buildings	16,806	16,557
Repairs & maintenance	312	676
Staff amenities	794	533
Staff training	1,706	1,916
Superannuation	11,982	12,717
Telephone	3,459	2,177
Travel, accom & conference	4,186	4,394
Wages	134,465	144,215
Workcover	3,221	3,767
Total expenses	279,855	293,147
Net Profit from Ordinary Activities	20,977	30,210

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Services' Funds			
Opening balance		67,111	36,901
Net profit		20,977	30,210
Total Services' Funds		88,088	67,111
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash at bank		5,032	7,730
Cash at bank		44,704	44,241
Cash at bank		-	35,489
Csh at bank - Event Brite		8,225	-
Security Bond on Premises		2,926	2,926
Cash at bank - Bendigo Entitlements		35,168	-
Paypal account		2,509	-
Paypal rolling reserve		355	759
Cash on hand		117	10
		99,036	91,155
Receivables			
Trade debtors		17,717	3,043
		17,717	3,043
Inventories			
Finished goods - at cost		13,902	7,928
		13,902	7,928
Total Current Assets		130,654	102,126

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Office & computer equipment		32,158	28,010
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(20,732)	(12,404)
		11,426	15,606
Total Non-Current Assets		11,426	15,606
Total Assets		142,080	117,732
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
- Trade creditors		3,498	2,501
- PAYG withholding payable		1,653	960
- Superannuation payable		2,382	2,846
		7,534	6,307
Current Tax Liabilities			
GST payable control account		8,862	6,844
Input tax credit control account		(2,785)	(1,965)
		6,077	4,879
Provisions			
Provision for annual leave		16,767	17,427
		16,767	17,427
Total Current Liabilities		30,378	28,613

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
<hr/>			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions			
Provision for long service leave		23,614	22,009
		<u>23,614</u>	<u>22,009</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>23,614</u>	<u>22,009</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>53,992</u>	<u>50,621</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>88,088</u></u>	<u><u>67,111</u></u>

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30th June 2017 there have been :

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the Audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

GRAEME F DELANY PTY LTD

GRAEME F DELANY, CPA

Suite 27, 545 McDonalds Rd South Morang

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delany', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

SOUTH MORANG

19/09/2017

Belonging Matters Inc Board of Management Declaration

The Board of Management has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements

The Board of Management declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes present fairly the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and its performances for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting practices described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the Board of Management's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Adam D'Arcy (President)

12.10.17



Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

12.10.17